Incentives for Deep Sea Fishing

1169. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to low prices, sufficient quantity of fish are thrown overboard by deep-sea fishing trawlers ;

(b) The incentives Government propose to offer to ensure that this fish is brought to shore ; and

(c) whether such incentives are likely to result in ensuring plentiful fish at cheap rates in urban areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) It is reported that shrimp trawlers discard low value species of fine fish.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of Sea Fishing Industry

1170. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to put the deep-sea fishing industry on a healthy footing during 1989-90 ;

(b) the details of problems faced by this industry at present;

(c) whether Government propose to initiate any time bound plans to revive the deep-sea fishing industry; and

(d) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) During 1989-90 under Trawler Development Fund Scheme and Fishery Survey of India Rs. 6 crores and Rs. 8·85 crores have been earmarked respectively. Implementation of these schemes will help in acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels by Indian companies and would make available data on fishery resources in deep sea areas to the fishing industry.

(b) to (d) The main difficulties that the deep sea fishing vessel owners have indicated relate to finance, high cost of diesel oil, lack of suitable facilities on fishing harbours, lack of convincing data on resources, procedural problems with regard to acquisition and registration of vessels, delay in getting approval for employment of foreign crew etc. The difficulties are looked into and appropriate action taken from time to time.

Amendment of Maritime Zone Act

1171. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Maritime Zone Act of 1981 to assist small technocrats and entrepreneurs in implementing their letters of intent for charter;

(b) whether any interim measures are likely to be taken to make the policy a success ;

(c) what are the major flaws in this Act which act as an impediment in effective implementation of the letters of intent ;

(d) whether it is a fact that sufficient powers are available with Government to adopt a realistic approach regarding tenure of letter of intent, and source of boats and other such aspects; and

(e) measures being taken to assist the small entrepreneurs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The charter policy is governed by the provisions of the Maritime Zones of India, (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 and rules framed in 1982. All efforts are made to achieve the objectives of Charter Policy.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Under the revised charter policy announced in 1986, priority is given to small and medium entrepreneurs as compared to large industry houses in the issue of charter permits.

Problems faced by Fishing Industry

1172. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fishing industry is facing difficulties for a variety of reasons;

(b) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to assist these units to be revived ;

(c) whether Commerce Ministry have submitted any proposal to supply diesel fuel to this industry at lower rates ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to expedite relief measures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The main difficulties that the deep sea fishing vessel owners have indicated relates to finance, high cost of diesel oil, lack of suitable facilities at fishing harbours, lack of convincing data on resources, procedural problems with regard to acquisition/registration of vessels, delay in getting approval for employing foreign crew etc. Some of the issues have already been taken up with the concerned authorities with a view to remove the difficulties.

(c) and (d) A copy of a scheme formulated by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for supply of diesel to deep sea fishing industry has been recently received by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries from the Ministry of Commerce.

Over-fishing on the East Coast

1173. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps being taken to control over-fishing on the East Coast;

(b) whether an irreversible decline has set in for shrimp resources on the East Coast; and

(c) the measures being taken to protect the existing shrimp fishing industry through conservation and prevention of over-fishing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) There is no evidence to suggest overfishing of non-shrimp resources on the East Coast. However, it is reported that shrimp resources on the North East Coast is exploited at